

participant HM1 and those of the conference participant at the other side match.

More specifically, a case in which the conference participant HM1 sees the monitor MDm (an image of the conference participant HMm) in the teleconference device TCD1 and the conference participant HMm sees the monitor device MD1 (an image of the conference participant HM1) in the teleconference device TCDm is taken as an example and will be described. In this case, a mirror image of the face or the like of the conference participant HMm is displayed on the screen 14 of the display section 15 in the monitor device MDm in the teleconference device TCD1; and the camera 16 of the monitor device MDm captures an image of the conference participant HM1 who is directed to the monitor device MDm and sends image data to the teleconference device TCDm and others. A mirror image of the face or the like of the conference participant HM1 is displayed on the screen 14 of the display section 15 in the monitor device MD1 in the teleconference device TCDm; and the camera 16 of the monitor device MD1 captures an image of the conference participant HMm who is directed to the monitor device MD1 and sends image data to the teleconference device TCD1 and others.

In this condition, at the teleconference device TCD1, when a mirror image of the conference participant HMm at the other side is displayed on the screen 14 of the display

section 15 in the monitor device MDM, the positions of the eyes in the virtual image, which are optically conjugate with those of the eyes in the mirror image are displayed so as to almost match the principal point of the lens of the camera 16. At the same time, at the teleconference device TCDM, when a mirror image of the conference participant HM1 at the other side is displayed on the screen 14 of the display section 15 in the monitor device MD1, the positions of the eyes in the virtual image, which are optically conjugate with those of the eyes in the mirror image are displayed so as to almost match the principal point of the lens of the camera 16. Therefore, at the teleconference device TCD1, the lines of sight of the conference participant HM1 match those of the virtual image of the conference participant HMM at the other side. At the teleconference device TCDM, the lines of sight of the conference participant HMM match those of the virtual image of the conference participant HM1 at the other side.

In general conventional teleconference systems, conference participants do not see virtual images made by half mirrors but directly see images (real images) displayed on the screens of display sections. In addition, cameras are disposed above or below, or at the right or left of the screens of the display sections in their vicinities. Therefore, in general conventional teleconference systems,

the lines of sight of conference participants are directed to images (real images) displayed on the screens of the display sections, and are not directed to the lenses of the cameras. Consequently, the lines of sight of the conference participant at the other side, displayed on the screen of a display section does not seem to be directed to you. Unlike the present embodiment, it is impossible to perform conversation while the lines of your sight match those of the conference participant at the other side.

In contrast, in the teleconference system according to the present embodiment, when the monitor device of each teleconference device TCD has the structure shown in Fig. 66 and Fig. 67, a conference participant can perform conversation with the conference participant at the other side while they see their eyes each other, namely, the lines of their sight match.

In the present embodiment, when a plurality of monitor devices MD in a teleconference device TCD are disposed, as shown in Fig. 2, as if the conference participants HM2 to HMn located at the teleconference devices TCD2 to TCDn and the conference participant HM1 sat around a table, namely, when the plurality of monitor devices are disposed such that the relative positional relationships among the conference participants HM2 to HMn at the places where the teleconference devices TCD2 to TCDn are disposed are